

Be a State Star

Grades K-4 • Supplementary Map Literacy Lesson



Skills and Objectives:

- Students will practice using a map key. (K-4)
- Students will work with the concept of comparison. (K-4)
- Students will use place value and write numbers to hundred thousands. (3-4)

Materials Needed:

We Count! Population of the United States Map (designed to be used on the floor or the wall of your classroom). For Grades 3-4: Copies of the Total State Population Chart, page 21 in your Census 2000 Grades K-4 Teaching Guide; sheets of paper.

Prerequisites: Lesson 1 (Greater States) and Lesson 2 (Kids Count) from the Census 2000 Teaching Guide, Grades K-4.

Getting Started:

Introduce the activity by directing your students' attention to the We Count! Map that you received in your Census 2000 teaching materials. Review with them where the map key is and what its colors represent. Then work with your students to answer the following questions about the map.

GRADES K-4:

- Which state has fewer people, Montana or Ohio? (Montana)
- Which state has more people, Louisiana or Maine? (Louisiana)
- Find the Mississippi River on the map. How many states border it? (10) Which state bordering it has the "most people"? (Illinois)
- Which "state with the most people" is the farthest north? (New York)
- Which "state with the most people" is the farthest west? (California)
- Which two states are separated from all of the other states? (Alaska and Hawaii) How can you tell? (They are shown in separate boxes.) Where are they located? (Indicate their position on a world map.)

GRADES 3-4:

Distribute a sheet of paper to pairs of students. Instruct students to refer to their copy of the "Total State Population Chart" and the We Count! Map when answering the following questions:

- Which state had the largest population in 1990? (California) The smallest? (Wyoming)
- Calculate the difference between the population of the most populated state and the least populated state. (29,306,400)
- Which state bordering the Mississippi had the smallest total population in 1990? (Arkansas)
- Arrange the states with the same color, in order of population, from "states with the fewest people" to "states with the most people."

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